

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /064 W

----- 095371

R 101330Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2593

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NA

SUBJECT: NEW GNA MINISTERS

REF: A. CURACAO A-6, B. CURACAO 0032

1. ON MARCH 4, THE THREE PPA MINISTERS PROPOSED IN JANUARY WERE CONFIRMED BY THE STATEN AND TOOK OFFICE. LEO CHANCE IS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MAX CROES IS MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, AND FAUSTINA FRANK (MISS) IS MINISTER OF EDUCATION. PPA'S FORMAL ENTRY INTO THE GNA COALITION BRINGS COALITION STRENGTH UP TO 13 OF 22. (SEE CURACAO A-6.)

2. STATEN MEETING WAS CALLED BY GOV. LEITO USING HIS QTE EXTRAORDINARY UNQTE POWERS GRANTED IN THE CONSTITUTION OVER STATEN PRESIDENT FIGAROA'S (MEP) ADAMANT OPPOSITION. FIGAROA REFUSED TO PRESIDE OVER OR EVEN ATTEND THE MEETING AND STATEN VICE-PRESIDENT WINKLAAR (NVP-U) CONVENED THE MEETING WHICH WAS BOYCOTTED BY MEP MEMBERS. THE MAJOR POINTS OF BUSINESS WERE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE PPA MINISTERS AND THE ELECTION OF AMOS NITA (FOL) AS NEW STATEN PRESIDENT. SINCE FIGAROA HAS NOT RESIGNED AND HIS TERM CONTINUES THROUGH MAY, LEGALITY OF FIGAROA'S OUSTER NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED BY GOVERNOR, ALTHOUGH

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IF STATEN DOES NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL MAY, WHICH IS LIKELY,

POINT MAY BE MOOT.

3. IN OPPOSING LEITO'S CONVOCATION OF STATEN MEETING, BETICO CROES, IN NAME OF MEP, REPORTEDLY SENT TELEGRAMS TO LEITO AND THE QUEEN CHALLENGING THE LEGALITY OF LEITO'S ACTION AND CALLING HIM A QTE MARIONETTE UNQTE OF A POLITICAL PARTY ON CURACAO (I.E. EVERTSZ' NVP-U). AS A RESULT, CHARGES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST HIM FOR INSULTING THE GOVERNOR, CONVICTION FOR WHICH COULD CARRY A JAIL SENTENCE.

4. COMMENT: CHANCE CAN BE HARDHEADED AND HIS CONFIRMATION AS NEW JUSTICE MINISTER COULD AUGUR POORLY FOR BETICO CROES (MEP), SINCE CROES HAS SEVERAL OTHER MATTERS PENDING WITHIN CHANCE'S JURISDICTION IN ADDITION TO HIS ALLEGED INSULT OF LEITO. CROES IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR HIS JANUARY QTE TAKEOVER UNQTE OF ARUBA'S TV STATION AND HIS POSSIBLY TREASONOUS DECLARATION THAT FOREIGN WARSHIPS WERE IN ARUBAN WATERS THREATENING ARUBA'S SOVEREIGNTY (SEE CURACAO 0032). HE IS ALSO UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR POSSESSION OF AN UNLICENSED FIREARM FOUND IN HIS CAR.
HANSON

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